

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

ERLC trustees reprimand Land; cancel radio show

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — Two reprimands have been issued to Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), and his radio show has been cancelled by the trustee executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) agency based in Nashville.

The ERLC trustee executive committee took the actions after Land made comments on the air about the racially-charged Trayvon Martin killing in Florida that ignited intense controversy. Land was also accused of plagiarizing material during his radio show.

The ERLC, led by Land since 1988, must "redouble our efforts... to heal re-opened wounds," the executive committee said of Land's comments about the intrusion of politics into the Trayvon Martin case and his references to U.S. President Barack Obama and the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson by name.

At the outset of its reprimands and broadcast termination, the trustee committee stated that Land's statements "were very hurtful and offensive to the Trayvon Martin family and to many in the African-American community, including hundreds of thousands of African-American Southern Baptists. Damage



LAND

was done to the state of race relations in the Southern Baptist Convention."

The two reprimands of Land by the ERLC trustee executive committee state:

"We reprimand Dr. Land for his hurtful, irresponsible, insensitive, and racially charged words on March 31, 2012, regarding the Trayvon Martin tragedy. It was appropriate for Dr. Land to issue the apology he made on May 9, 2012 and we are pleased he did so. We also convey our own deepest sympathies to the family of Trayvon Martin for the loss they have suffered. We, too, express our sorrow, regret, and apologies to them for Dr. Land's remarks. We are particularly disappointed in Dr.

Land's words because they do not accurately reflect the body of his work over a long career at the ERLC toward racial reconciliation in the Southern Baptist Convention and American life. We must now redouble our efforts to regain lost ground, to heal re-opened wounds, and to realize the dream of a Southern Baptist Convention that is just as diverse as the population of our great Nation.

see LAND on p. 7

Mississippi pastor to be nominated for SBC post

NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports) — Eric Hankins, 40, senior pastor of First Church, Oxford, will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) during the SBC's June 19-20 annual meeting in New Orleans.

Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Charlotte, listed several reasons in a statement to Baptist Press why he intends to nominate Hankins. Among the reasons: "Eric loves the Southern Baptist Convention enough to work within the convention to help it to honor the Lord as best as we can."

"This is, I believe, a factor of high importance in evaluating candidates for SBC office. Eric pastors FBC Oxford, Mississippi, and his church gives 12% through the Cooperative Program. If you love the SBC, then Eric is the kind of guy you want to see in leadership."

Before serving at First Church, Oxford, Hankins was senior pastor of Galloway Avenue Church in Mesquite, Texas, from 2000-2005, and pastor of Gillsburg Church near Ossyka in Mississippi Association from 1997-2000.

Hankins, a native of Lake Charles, La., earned a Ph.D. in theology from Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth in 2007; a master of divinity in biblical languages from New Orleans Seminary in 1997;



ERIC HANKINS

and a bachelor of arts degree in religion from Louisiana College in Pineville in 1994.

Pressley, in his statement to Baptist Press, described Hankins as "an innovative young leader in the pursuit of the Great Commission. Eric was involved in the founding of the One8 church-planting network and he serves on its leadership team today."

"This network combines all of the best new ideas about church planting with a convictional Southern Baptist doctrinal stance and denominational affiliation. One8 is a distinctively Southern Baptist church-planting network. Guys involved in creating and leading that sort of thing ought to be the leaders of our denomination, in my opinion."

The One8 Network is on the Web at www.one8.org. Hankins also wrote the introduction to the just-released, *A Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation*, on the web site sbctoday.com. Hankins wrote in the introduction that the document, "Its purpose is to engender a much needed Convention-wide discussion about the place of Calvinism in Southern Baptist life."

see HANKINS on p. 7

Church Planting Expo to be held in Brandon

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

The Mission Mobilizations Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is sponsoring the 2012 North America Church Planting Expo June 14 at Brandon Church, Brandon, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The purpose of the event is to expose Mississippi Baptist churches to possible connections with potential church plants throughout North America. The goal is to build coalitions of Mississippi Baptist churches around church plants in seven strategic areas in order to impact lostness and to make a difference in thousands of lives.

Participants are asked to register for the expo by June 11. Lunch is complimentary.

"Mississippi has been getting lots of requests from other state conventions, from church planters, from associations. Everyone is needing resources, so what we've done is to think about the relationships we have, the ones we've been developing for the past two or three years, and decided that we could come up with a focus in specific areas and try to build a network with several different churches around a specific area," said Ken Rhodes, director of the Missions Mobilization Department.

To that end, Rhodes has invited seven leaders from seven different locations to the Expo. These men include Mike Flannery, director of missions for Frontier Association in Buffalo, N.Y.; David Williams, director of missions for Finger Lakes Association in Rochester, N.Y.; Dan Duffy, associational missionary for Northcoast Association in Elyria, Oh.; Steve Long, associational missionary for Northwest Ohio Association in Toledo, Oh.; Garrett Holmes, team leader for Richmond Area Church Planting, Center of Towers Baptist Church, Vancouver, Canada; John Rogers, missions and evangelism team leader for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Delton Beall, church planting missionary for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists in Charleston, W.V.

"Each of these seven guests represents seven geographic focus areas," said Rhodes. "We've asked each one of these men to bring four or five of their priorities in church start goals. What we want to do coming out of that is to build a network of Mississippi churches around each of those areas."

Each of the speakers will share for about twenty minutes their area of need, so each of the participants will be able to hear three of the presentations of their choice. This will be followed by an informal meal, and participants will be able to visit with these men. Rhodes will fol-

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JUN 08 2012



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS



JCPENNEY Father's Day brochure

Missing the message

Well, it appears extolling the virtues of lesbianism and alternative families just in time for Mothers Day this year was not enough for JC Penney. This past week the national retailer rolled out its advertising emphasis for Fathers Day, complete with a photograph of a homosexual couple cheerfully tussling with their two children on the floor of a well-appointed home. One of the men appears to be wearing a wedding ring on his left hand.

It may not have yet dawned on the JC Penney executives perched in their ivory tower, but they have a problem. Their ads aren't working. Since hiring high-profile Hollywood lesbian activist Ellen DeGeneres as their national spokeswoman and instituting these latest ads, the company's sales figures and stock price have been dismal.

Bloomberg reports that in the first quarter of this year, JC Penney sales fell by considerably more than analysts predicted and the company's stock price declined the most in more than three decades, tumbling 20%.

The bad news kept coming, as the company announced a first quarter loss of \$163 million - 75 cents per share in the red compared to a profit of 28 cents per share a year earlier, according to Bloomberg. The quarterly dividend has also been suspended until further notice, the company said on a May 15.

Why doesn't JC Penney get it? Are they unaware that American voters, when given the opportunity at the ballot box, have opposed same sex marriage 100% of the time? Why don't they understand that the average shopper doesn't want a parade of alternative lifestyles crammed down their throats every time they open a JC Penney ad circular?

Why don't they stop, now that it's clear that it's not working, or at least use politically/socially neutral advertising?

"We want to be a store for all Americans," JC Penney spokeswoman Kate Coulas told MSNBC's Bottom Line report after the Mother's Day debacle.

At this rate, pretty soon they won't be a store for anyone.



JCPENNEY Mother's Day brochure

Love your community

When the Lord called me into ministry, I told Him I would go anywhere He asked. I graduated from seminary and was asked to fill out a form indicating where we would like to serve. I put "wherever God puts us."

While I told God I would go anywhere, I also asked that it would never be Nineveh. I don't mean a town or city called Nineveh, but a people and place I would not love. I never wanted to be the Jonah of chapter one, never wanted to be disciplined into the ministry God had for me.

By God's grace, I have never served in Nineveh. He has always been gracious to me and given me a love for the people I served, a passion for the city, and a desire to live in the community in which God has placed me.

You can minister in Nineveh, and God will use you as He used Jonah, but you may also be miserable. Surely it's much better to allow God to breathe His passion for the community and the people deeply into you. Surely it's much better to love the people and the place God has called you to serve.

Looking back, here are a few practical things my wife and I did to develop our love for the places we served. I will use my most recent local church experience in Miami illustratively.

- **Eat at local restaurants.** You can go to a chain restaurant in any city. Instead, find places authentic to the community, places that capture the local culture.

- **Date your spouse and the city.** Explore different parts of the community/city/county. Find things to do in places you've not yet explored. Shop in a different part of town or try coffee in a new place.

- **Find fun local spots for your kids.** Each community has unique things for kids, whether it is a park, zoo, museum, or library. Join those and visit them with your kids.



Guest opinion
with Eric Geiger

- **Pray each morning for your community.** The more you pray for your community, the more you'll love it. God supernaturally does this work in your heart.

- **Join the sports bandwagon.** Allow the local team to become your team. Really make it your team.

- **Use local illustrations in your messages.** The more you talk about your community, the more you end up loving it and the more people will sense that love.

- **Honor local community leaders.** Everyone in authority has been placed in authority by God (Romans 13). Pray for these leaders and look for opportunities to serve them.

- **Embrace the history.** The community has an historical narrative. Learn it in order to better understand the place and the people who live there.

- **Listen.** As you live in the community, listen to the people you meet. Hear their stories and allow God to give you His burden for them.

What about you? Anything practical you would add to the list that you have found helpful in developing a deep love for the place you serve?

Geiger is vice president of the church resources division of LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville. Prior to joining LifeWay, Geiger served eight years as executive pastor of Christ Fellowship Miami in Florida. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for length.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 10, 2012

The Faith Dare • Joshua 2:1,6,8-15; 6:22-23

The Faith Dare is the second of five dares we are studying over the next few weeks. Last week we challenged you to take the Leadership Dare by accepting leadership responsibilities in your church. This week's dare is to meet challenging situations with faith in the Lord. Our faith in the Lord is under constant attack in an increasingly secular and sinful America. Multiculturalism, pluralism, and a general malaise about spiritual matters have created an indifferent and sometimes hostile environment for people who love Jesus. How are believers to respond to America's shift from being a "Christian nation under God" to a nation where anything goes?

This week's lesson is about how Rahab, a prostitute, reacted to a challenging situation. Her hometown was about to be overrun by an invading force. Long before the "enemy" was at the gates of Jericho, the inhabitants had heard about the destruction and devastation this invading hoard brought upon their enemies. How did Rahab respond? How would we respond under a challenging situation? The Life Goal of this lesson is to help you and other adults dare to meet challenging situations with faith in the Lord. In so doing, believers demonstrate courage.

1. Faith Expressed in Words (Josh. 2:1,8-13)

Joshua 2:1 set the stage for the events that followed. Joshua, Israel's leader af-

ter the death of Moses, sent two spies into the Promised Land to "look over the land" (NIV). This reconnaissance mission was preparatory for a full invasion soon to follow. The first major obstacle was the double walled city of Jericho not far from the Jordan River. We are not told why the spies entered the house of the prostitute named Rahab. One speculation is strange men visiting a prostitute would not be out of the ordinary. If that is the case the ruse did not work as is attested in 2:2-3.

Rahab chose to identify

with the Israelite spies instead of the people of Jericho. Thus she hid the spies and misdirected their pursuers, an honorable action from the perspective of the Israelites. The spies lay low until their pursuers left. Rahab used the opportunity to express in words the salient points of her budding faith: the Lord has given you this land (2:9); she had heard of the Lord's great acts of deliverance on Israel's behalf (2:10); and she admitted the Lord's reputation caused a heart-felt anxiety as the Israelites approached Jericho



Explore the Bible with W. Wayne VanHorn

(2:9b,11a). Their hearts "melted in fear and everyone's courage failed" (2:11b). Then Rahab expressed the most important tenet of her new found faith, "the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" (2:11c).

2. Faith Expressed in Actions (Josh. 2:6,14-15)

James reminds us that "faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead" (James 2:17; NIV). Rahab took the decisive action to hide the spies on

her roof (Josh. 2:6). She also agreed to the spies' condition not to tell anyone about them (2:14). Additionally, she lowered them to safety through her window (2:15). Her house was part of the city wall. The gates had been closed after those pursuing the spies left. Rahab's window was the only avenue of escape. The two spies' lives were literally in Rahab's hands. The faith she first expressed in words found fuller expression in her actions toward the two spies.

3. Faith Rewarded (Josh. 6:22-23)

Many things transpired before the Israelites conquered Jericho. They crossed the Jordan River (Josh. 3). They set up 12 stones at Gilgal to reflect on God's provision in drying up the Jordan (Josh. 4). The men were circumcised, the people partook of the first Passover meal in the Promised Land, and Joshua had a vision of the commander of the Lord's army (Josh. 5).

Jericho's walls fell because Joshua and the people put faith in the Lord's instructions and obeyed His commands. With Jericho's defenses destroyed, Joshua commanded Rahab and her household to be spared (6:17). He directed the two spies to seek her out and to deliver her entire family in accordance with their oath to her (6:22; cf. 2:14). The two men did as they were directed (6:23). Rahab's budding faith was rewarded fully because she dared to exercise faith in the Lord.

What about you? Will you dare to exercise faith in the Lord when economic, health, or relational challenges threaten to disrupt your life? Will you take the Faith Dare?

VanHorn is dean of Christian Studies at Mississippi College, Clinton.

Do You Honor Your Commitments? • Malachi 2:1-16

Yes indeed, welcome to the book of Malachi where God asks the questions and answers them while the people stand amazed in shock and awe. In keeping with that theme, the current unit title (Apathy—Who Cares?) as well as the four lesson titles for the month of June are presented in the form of questions that stare at us, demanding answers.

The great evangelist Vance Havner described apathetic believers this way: "Most Christians come to church to close the eyes and eye the clothes. They arrive at 11 o'clock sharp and depart at 12 o'clock dull." Let all God's (truly honest) people say, "OUCH and AMEN!" We live our lives expecting to hear God say "well done" while we spend our days "half done" or "not done" or "have it my way." God's response should be "undone."

"How have You loved us? How have we despised Your name? How have we defiled Thee?" God notices when we challenge Him, despise His name and defile Him with thoughtless worship. He notices because He cares about us and loves us. He notices because of His covenant relationship with His people and His priests. Under a sky teeming with uncountable stars in Genesis 15, God cut covenant with Abram to bring forth a nation of faithful worshippers

who would follow God and lead other nations to do the same. God promised Abram uncountable generations of faith and a homeland. God pledged the provision and protection of His presence and power. In the days of Moses and Aaron, God set apart the tribe of Levi as priests to connect the people with God through worship and sacrifice. The book of Exodus details their responsibilities with specificity. The people of God were ignoring the covenant. The priests of God were following suit.

Why was this covenant so vital? From the seed of Abraham through the tribe of Judah would come Jesus, Son of God and Savior of the world. From the seed of Abraham through tribe of Levi would come worship and sacrifice in the wilderness tabernacle and in the Jerusalem temple. These vibrant covenant colors would blend to paint a portrait of the coming perfect sacrifice, Jesus the Lamb of God Who would take away the sin of the world. This

masterpiece of salvation was vandalized and scandalized by disobedience.

My granny used to say over our Sunday lunch, "Well, y'all, that preacher shore did git us told today." In Malachi Two, God exposes His target audience with "... and now, this commandment is for you, O priests." God reminds the Levitical priests of His heart for their calling: life, peace,

reverence, uprightness and instruction. They missed it. These shepherds of God had crooked-staffed His sheep straight

into a ravine.

"Commitment" could very well be the next word scholars choose to delete from our dictionary for lack of use.

Living on our side of the cross has its own set of serious spiritual responsibilities. The gospels declare that at the crucifixion, the veil of the temple was torn in two, allowing each person direct access to God through the torn body and spilled blood of Jesus. The writer of Hebrews affirms Jesus as our Great High Priest Who died once for

all. Peter designates that believers are set aside as a holy nation, a royal priesthood. We still have pastors who shepherd the flock of God through His Bride, the church, but we are all individually accountable to the Covenant Maker and Covenant Keeper. So, believers, when God talks to the priests in the book of Malachi, we need to sit up and listen. God is talking to us!

Finally in Malachi Two, God states that He hates divorce. Such a violent statement from the Lord of Hosts commands attention. The institution of home/family was God's plan. The commitment of a man and his wife to each other is a picture of Christ and His bride, the church. In this age of 50% divorce rate (military families 93%), marriage is worth erasable ink on crepe paper. Meanwhile, our spiritually bankrupt culture presses hard their mandate of completely redefining marriage to conform to their standards of political correctness, turning blind eyes and rebellious hearts to our true Founding Father. Could it be that God sees His covenant with us as a binding spiritual marriage? If so, then our willful disobedience translates into arrogant divorce from Him. God aches to renew our vows.

Brown is the staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

Bible Studies for Life with Becky Brown



Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may

be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published

one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Did you hear about the man who was seated on a bus? A lady got on and he got up to let her have his seat. The woman was so shocked that she fainted. After they worked with her a while and she came to she thanked the man for what he had done and then he fainted. Whether or not this story is true is questionable but the reality is that small expressions of gratitude are powerful things. Everyday you and I have that power within us. As believers, God can take that reservoir of gratitude that is within us and release it to do great things in His Kingdom work and to bless people who we do not even know. Surely He wants to take that source of encouragement and assistance that we can give and work in our families, churches, and communities.

When Luke recorded that incredible incident in Jesus' life where He met 10 lepers, he points out to us the importance of living out our gratitude (Luke 17:11-19). Ten lepers, all of whom were banished from their families and separated from their communities, found that they were living in a community of sickness. Then Jesus walked into the midst of their dilemma and told them to go and show themselves to the priest. As they turned to go, in short order they saw that the leprosy, the disease that had consumed them, was gone. They were clean and free. One of the men turned and went back to find Jesus. There he began to praise God, threw himself at Jesus' feet, and thanked Him. Jesus asked, "Were there not 10 cleansed? Where are the other nine?" Indeed, there were 10, but the other nine just simply went on with life rather than taking a moment to be grateful. Sometimes you and I get into such a habitual pattern of ungratefulness that we never see the good things that God has put

Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Expressions of Gratitude

in our lives day after day. Sometimes there are little things and sometimes there are little things that really are big things.

Some years ago, a dear man at the church where I was pastor shared the same birth date as mine. For years, we called each other, sang Happy Birthday to each other, and enjoyed the camaraderie of being born on the same day although our birth years were far apart. One birthday occasion I went by his house to see him and sing Happy Birthday to him. He was up in years and struggling with a number of health problems, the worst of which was emphysema.

As we visited, I asked him if he could just have one wish to be granted that day what he would like to have. He said, "If I could just take one good, deep, satisfying breath of air, I think that is what I would ask." For me, healthy, happy, and full of life in my thirties I had never given a thought to such a thing. I had never considered what

it might be like not to get a deep satisfying breath of air. It is such a normal part of life and such a thoughtless endeavor for most of us, but to him it was a remarkable event that he rarely enjoyed. Now because of his condition he would never experience that again.

There are little things all around us like that and we may not even give a thought to thanking God for them. When our joints are working and not hurting, our heart is beating and supplying nourishment, oxygen, and life, when our head does not hurt, and our mobility is not impaired, we go on about life like the nine lepers. We fail to pause and give gratitude to God for the incredible little things in our lives. Even as we think about that event in the life of Jesus, we sometimes put the spotlight on the nine rather than the one. The power of gratitude in one person's life is enormous.

There are always people around who are ungrateful and who do not seem to have

any capacity at all to say thank you, but the one who is grateful does make a difference. I think about so many people in my life who have made a difference because of their gentle, sweet expressions of gratitude. There are people who have expressed appreciation for a sermon preached, a service rendered, a visit made, or an encouragement offered. As a pastor, I long ago lowered my expectations of expressions of appreciation basically to zero. As a result, anytime anyone expresses gratitude for anything it comes to me with a slight jolt and appreciation on my part for their thoughtfulness. Without them even knowing it many of those folks are the ones who have blessed and encouraged me beyond words. Many times they have kept me going when I was almost at a stopping place.

Maybe you have people in your life like that and if you do those gratitude givers are meaningful to you. But more important than that is the fact that you can be meaningful to someone else. You may not be able to preach a sermon or sing a song. You may not know how to bake a pound cake and you may not be able to come up with the right words to say in a crisis moment, but you can express your appreciation to people. You may not be gifted in dozens of ways, but your grace-filled gratitude may resound throughout all of the earth. On this day, refocus your attention from trying to find the next blessing that is coming your way to looking for the next opportunity to express gratitude. It will bless others, but most of all it will bless you.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.



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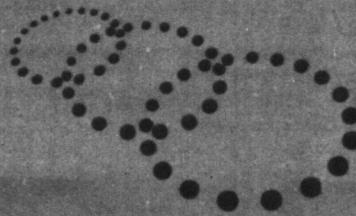
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 7, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Transformational Sunday School

Transformational Sunday School Training

July 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 8, 15, 22

Make your plans now to attend Sunday School training designed with the needs of your church in mind. Planning team will work with local church and association leaders in each region of the state to prayerfully determine the needs of your church. Each conference is customized with those needs in mind.

Specific conferences will be announced as needs are discovered.

expected

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS



Malachi accused God's people of leading lives that were "out of sync" with the Lord. This new Four-Sunday emphasis asks believers to return to the Lord (3:7), remember His commandments, and respond in generosity (3:10-11). When we do, God will multiply our witness among our neighbors, and bless our land (3:12).



Contact Lisa Leavell at 601.292.3347 or leavell@mbcb.org for more information on this new resource.



Tract Tops

LIVING IN SYNC WITH GOD

School PrayerWalk & Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, July 29, 2012

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**Women's Retreat
October 19-20, 2012**

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Generation Camp and Conference Center is located in Custer, MI, 15 miles west of Jackson on I-94. From Atlanta, take I-75 West to I-94 North, exit 1/2 mile to the Generation Camp and Conference Center. From Chicago, take I-90 West to the Generation Camp and Conference Center. From Detroit, take I-94 West to the Generation Camp and Conference Center. From Toledo, take I-94 East to the Generation Camp and Conference Center.

Refreshing Conferences (as above for women include:
"In-Service" Your Staff - Prepare to live each day to the fullest,
equipped to cope with patient health issues of women.
"In-Service" Your Staff Used - Discover ways to pray for everything and
everyone on your list.
"In-Service" Your Ministry - Covering the gamut of mission ideas, you're
sure to have something to add.
"In-Service" The Visitor - Encouragement and Outreach Ideas for you that are
"On-the-go" and done.

WEDNESDAY, 2:00	Registration
4:00-5:00	Dinner
5:00-7:00	Concurrent Working 1
7:00-8:00	Concurrent Session 1
8:00-8:30	Afterhours
THURSDAY	
7:00-8:00	Breakfast
8:00-9:30	Concurrent Working 2
10:00-11:00	Afterhours Break
11:00-12:00	Concurrent Session 2
12:00	Lunch and Awards



**Ministerial
Money Food
For Street**



Pray this day for...

June 8 – 21, 2012

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

—Ephesians 6:18

Pray for a team of eight from **East Heights BC**, Tupelo, traveling to serve in Costa Rica, June 14-21.

10

Pray for a team of 12 from **FBC, Tupelo**, traveling to Japan to minister through evangelism and discipleship, June 14-25.

11

Pray for a team of six from **Port Gibson BC, Port Gibson**, traveling to Peru to minister through medical, VBS, and construction, June 14-29.

12

Pray for a team of 12 from **Unity Baptist, Iuka**, traveling to Costa Rica to serve through evangelism, June 14-21.

13

Pray for a team of 29 from **Clear Creek BC, Oxford, and FBC, Columbus**, traveling to Brazil to serve through evangelism, medical, VBS and construction missions, June 15-24.

14

Pray for a team of six from **FBC, Florence**, traveling to Thailand to minister through English, June 8-20.

8

Pray for **Kevin* and Brenda Peacock**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education, church and home outreach and evangelism.

9

Pray for a team of 13 from **Petal-Harvey BC, Petal**, traveling to Belize to serve through youth ministry and VBS, June 16-23.

10

Father's Day

11

Pray for a team of eight from **FBC, Mendenhall**, traveling to Honduras to minister through medical and dental missions, June 16-23.

12

Pray for a team of three from **Good Hope BC, Camden**, traveling to Haiti to minister through home construction and evangelism, June 19 – July 1.

13

Pray for a team of two from **FBC, Corinth**, traveling to Romania to serve through VBS and medical missions, June 21-30.

14

Pray for a team of 10 from **Pearl River BA**, traveling to Ukraine to serve through evangelism and medical missions, June 21-30.

15

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2012 Professional Certification and Office Skillshops for Ministry Assistants

August 21-23, 2012

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center Clinton, Miss.

For questions, or to register, contact Cathy Taylor at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or 292-3305 or e-mail: cwtaylor@mcb.org

State literacy missions retreat

August 2 - August 4, 2012
1:00 p.m. Thursday – 1:00 p.m. Friday
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

"We've a Story to Tell"
"This is the Message
we have heard from Him
and announce to you.
God is Light.
There is no darkness in Him."
I John 1:5



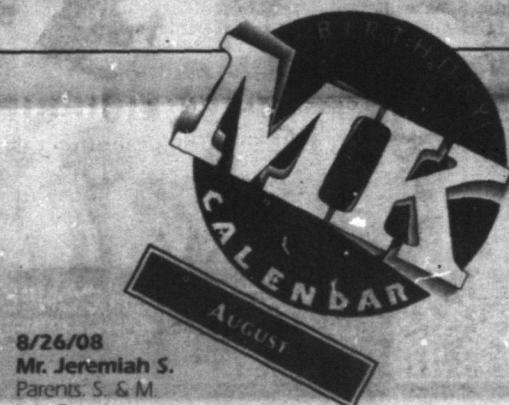
For more information contact: Paula Smith – psmith@mcb.org / 601-292-3336
Registration form will be posted the first of May at
www.mcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy/

8/9/03
Mr. Jadon Yeager
Parents: Tommy & Jennifer
Restricted

8/10/07
Mr. Evan Epps
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
South American Peoples

8/16/07
Mr. Hutchinson Adair
Parents: James & Mary Margaret
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

8/24/01
Miss Kaylee Hodgins
Parents: Ray & Cindy
Deaf Peoples Group



8/26/08
Mr. Jeremiah S.
Parents: S. & M.
Last Frontier

8/27/00
Mr. Benton Hewitt, III
Parents: Earl & Ramona
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HouseTops

The Good News and The Bad News of Politics

All have heard stories that begin, "I have some good news and I have some bad news. Which one do you want to hear first?" For me I always wanted the good news first to give me a little more emotional cushion for the bad news that would follow. Life is like that - up and down, good and bad - and so is legislation in our country. So first the good news!!

Rep. Gary Chism, of Columbus, Ms., introduced legislation this past session that provides that certain sales of utilities to churches are exempt from sales taxes. House Bill 582 sailed through the House and the Senate with the support of several co-signers, committee chairmen Jeff Smith of the House and Joey Fillingane of the Senate. Speaker Phillip Gunn and Lt. Governor Tate Reeves

both were very supportive, and Governor Phil Bryant signed it into law effective July 1, 2012.

After a bill becomes law it must be determined as to how it is to be implemented.

The Mississippi Department of Revenue has formulated a plan whereby every church can receive the benefits to which they are entitled. Please read the next couple of paragraphs carefully because these exemptions ARE NOT automatic from the utility companies. Each church MUST request these exemptions from their providers while providing proper credentials.



with Jimmy
Porter

Each church must provide documentation from the IRS that they are a 501 (C) (3) organization and tax exempt to each of their utility providers.

Some churches may have documentation from the IRS stating that they are a 501 (C) (3) charitable organization. If so, all you have to do is copy the document and submit it to your utility companies. Knowing that most churches do not have this document, the Department of Revenue has graciously provided an easy and reasonable way to access these exemptions.

The Department of Revenue has placed on its website (www.dor.ms.gov) a form that can be downloaded, completed and sent to each provider. This affidavit must be notarized and signed by a representative of the church. In many churches it will be the Chairman of the Trustees, or it could be someone else who has been granted this authority by the congregation.

This form must be submitted EVERY year to receive these exemptions the following year. To receive these exemptions for the remainder of 2012, beginning with the July/August billing cycle you

must provide this documentation immediately. The sooner you do so the sooner your exemptions begin. Also, you must do this again in December 2012 to receive these benefits for the entire year of 2013. Put it on your church calendar to remind you to do it every December for the following year.

The bad news relates to what is happening in Washington, D.C. and a few other places around our nation. First, the United States House of Representatives failed to pass the PRENDA ACT (Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act). The bill would have prevented abortion based on gender. Dr. Richard Land stated, "It is staggering that in a nation where Gallup tells us that a majority of Americans describe themselves as pro-life, the Congress elected by that same population could contain 168 members who are willing to go on record as refusing to outlaw killing an unborn baby because it is the wrong sex."

Many in the field of journalism are calling it a continuation of the "war on women." By a wide margin gender based abortions result in the murdering of little girls. Can our liberal minded bloggers and journalists not see the ignorance in calling it a "war on women?"

On another front, the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, Mass., ruled the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional. The unanimous decision of the three-judge panel said the law

defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman deprives gay couples of rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples. President Obama and his homosexual supporters vowed to undo DOMA even before his election. The constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act is headed to the Supreme Court where it will be decided. The court will be split but let us pray that DOMA is upheld.

I thank the Lord for our Senators and Representatives, who stand and support marriage between a man and a woman, and who vote to preserve the life of the unborn. Yet we have one congressman and a few others in our state who are described by William Gilbert when he said, "I always voted at my party's call, and I never thought of thinking for myself at all."

Friends, we must, in conversation and in print take a stand because the day is coming where we will have nowhere to stand. It is not and will not be easy but we must do it. Thomas Sowell, a syndicated columnist, wrote, "If you have always believed that everyone should play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards, that would have gotten you labeled as a radical 60 years ago, a liberal 30 years ago and a racist today."

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 2012

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APRIL 2012

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BCV EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The BCV employs Christian, mission-minded, husband and wife teams, without dependent children or pets, to serve in the position of Houseparents. The couples must be mature Christian adults with personal integrity, character and of good reputation with standards and ethics expected of any member of The Baptist Children's Village staff.

They receive a salary with benefits and are provided a private bedroom and meals while on duty. The primary job responsibility of Houseparents is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and youth residents. They are the primary caregivers and help with everything from transportation and homework to laundry and meals when on duty.

Houseparent responsibilities are varied and somewhat dependent upon which campus and to which cottage the couple is assigned. However, all Houseparents need to be in good physical, mental and emotional health. They must be cooperative and comfortable working in a team environment.

To apply for the current Houseparent openings, please contact Celeste Cade at ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com or 601-922-2242.

A complete job description and application may be downloaded at www.baptistchildrensvillage.com.

EXPO

cont. from p. 1

low this time with an explanation of networking, and then the participants will go to the area representing where they might like to network. Growing from that time will be the beginning of the formation of networks. The event will end with a time of commissioning of the networks.

"Church planting costs, for one church to do it, may be too financially demanding but if we can get a network of four to six churches around a specific area, it's more doable. What we're asking is that the church give prayer support, that they supply volunteers, provide financial resources, and be an advocate for that work."

The goal would be to provide, on average, \$35,000 for each church plant over three years. "If you had a network of seven churches cooperating with one plant, you're looking at an investment of \$5,000 per church over a period of three years," Rhodes said. "We want to see the resources come from Mississippi."

Rhodes asked that interested parties attend, even if they are not prepared to make a commitment in 2012. Participants could join a network or assist in creating a new network in 2013 and beyond.

For more information on the Expo, contact the Mission Mobilizations Department at (601) 292-3398, or email krhodes@mcb.org.

LAND

cont. from p. 1

"We further reprimand Dr. Land for quoting material without giving attribution on the Richard Land Live! (RLL) radio show, thereby unwittingly accepting practices that occur in the radio industry, and we acknowledge that instances of plagiarism occurred because of his carelessness and poor judgment. We examined Dr. Land's written work during the investigation, and we found no instances of plagiarism in any of Dr. Land's written work. As a Christian, a minister of the Gospel of our Lord, and as President of the ERLC, Dr. Land should have conformed to a higher standard. We expect all future work of the ERLC to be

above reproach in that regard," the trustee executive committee said regarding plagiarism allegations against Land over material he failed to attribute to a Washington Times columnist on the March 31 broadcast.

Regarding the call-in radio show, the ERLC trustee executive committee stated, "...we have carefully considered the content and purpose of the Richard Land Live! broadcast. We find that they are not congruent with the mission of the ERLC. We also find that the controversy that erupted as a result of the March 31 broadcast, and related matters, requires the termination of that program. We hereby announce that the Richard Land Live! radio program will end as soon as possible within the bounds of our contracts with

the Salem Radio Network."

Land, in a statement issued to Baptist Press after the release of the reprimands and broadcast termination, stated, "I have said on numerous occasions that I believe in trustee oversight and governance. I am under the authority of the trustees elected by the Southern Baptist Convention. This whole process was conducted in a Christian manner by Christian gentlemen."

"I look forward to working with them and their fellow trustees and the ERLC staff as we seek to continue to minister the Gospel of our Savior across our great land," Land said.

In his May 9 apology, Land apologized "for the harm my words of March 31, 2012, have caused to specific individuals, the cause of racial reconciliation, and the gospel of Jesus Christ."

HANKINS

cont. from p. 1

Pressley in his statement also referenced Hankins' father, David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Alexandria.

"The primary responsibility of the second vice president is to assist our president in any way that he requires. Eric will serve well alongside Dr. Fred Luter," Pressley said, referencing the New Orleans pastor who, to date, is the lone nominee for SBC president. "[T]here's already a good relationship between the Luters and the Hankinses.

"Eric's not the kind of guy who's going to wind up on CNN for having done something to embarrass the convention while holding office. That's important."

Pressley also stated that "Eric is my friend and I know him to be a godly leader that loves his family, the church and the Great Commission."

"I am so very honored to be nominated at this historic moment in Southern Baptist life," Eric Hankins said in a statement to The Baptist Record. "I am humbled by the possibility of serving under Rev. Fred Luter's leadership and would

seek to do whatever I am asked in a way that brings glory to God and useful service to Southern Baptists."

There are currently no other announced nominations for second vice-president. If elected, Eric Hankins would replace Eric Thomas, who pastored First Church, Vicksburg, for several years and is currently senior pastor of First Church,

Norfolk, Va. Pressley also nominated Thomas.

Eric Hankins and his wife Janet, also a Lake Charles, La., native, have been married for 20 years. They have three children: John David, 17; Emily, 15; and Jake, eight.

William H. Perkins Jr., editor of The Baptist Record, contributed to this article.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEED OF A PIANIST Sundays AM & PM & Wednesday evenings. Please send resume to First Baptist Church Attn: Personnel Committee P.O. Box 110, Morton, MS 39117

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF BRAXTON, MS IN SEARCH OF A MINISTER OF YOUTH. Resumes can be emailed to charity60@bellsouth.net or mailed to PO Box 111 Braxton, MS 39044. For questions please call Charity Welch @ 601-668-2179. Deadline 03-15-12.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH OF PASCAGOULA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Please send Resumes to the church at: 3819 Arlington St., Pascagoula, MS 39561. Attn: Search Committee or by email at arlington_church@bellsouth.net.

THE BAPTIST RECORD June 7, 2012

Just for the Record



The ladies of Macedonia Deen Town Church, Blue Mountain, recently made 70 bags for Labonna Hospital with coloring books and crayons.



Members of Fellowship Church, Taylorsville, placed over 200 flags on veteran's graves in their cemetery. Shown are the members who placed the flags.



Spring Hill Church, Wesson, has begun a handyman ministry. The group recently cut and delivered firewood to William Jones, second from right. Shown are Walter Cline, back; and Cody Wiltshire, Zach Jordan, Nathan Delaney, Jones, and Oscar Foster.

Damascus Baptist Church, Flora, will show the movie Courageous on June 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Coffee and donuts will be served before the movie. A four-week Courageous Living Bible study will begin the following week. Time will be announced June 17.

Vacation Bible School

► **Bellevue Church, Pontotoc County:** June 11 - 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Pre-K - 6th grade.

► **First Church, Brandon:** June 17 - 20; preschool, 6 - 8:30 p.m., for ages 4 through K/5; sports camp, grades 1 - 5, 6 - 8:45 p.m.; register online at www.fbcbrandton.com or for more information, call (601) 825-6766.

► **Evansville Church, Coldwater:** June 11 - 15, 8:30 a.m. - noon.

► **Longview Church, Belden:** June 24 - 28, 6 - 8:30 p.m., ages 4 through 6th grade.

► **New Hope Church, Foxworth:** June 11 - 15, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.; June 9, preregistration, 1 - 3 p.m. (bring towels - parents must stay with children during preregistration)

► **County Line Church, Ovett/Whitfield Community:** Registration, June 23, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. VBS; June 24 - 28, 6 - 8 p.m., kindergarten - 6th grade; June 29, closing program, 6 p.m.

► **Damascus Baptist Church, Flora:** will have VBS June 18-21, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Interim pastor, John Taylor.



Liberty Church, Carroll County, honored mothers May 13. Shown, left, is youngest mother, Nikki Mueller with son Michael; Jean Dubard, center, mother with most children in attendance; and Blanch Dubard, right, oldest mother.



Harperville Church, Harperville, named Smith Sanders and Parkes Marler pastor emeritus May 6. The two men have over 120 years combined service. Shown are pastor Bobby McKay, Sanders, Marler, and Martha Ellen Marler.



First Church, Crystal Springs, held its RA/GA service May 9, beginning with the recognition of their Mission Friends. Approximately 20 boys and 26 girls received certificates and badges for their work.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Coldwater Church, Philadelphia:** Homecoming, June 10, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Albert McMullen, speaker; Steve Turner, music.

► **East Pleasant Grove Church, Quitman:** 125 anniversary/homecoming, June 24, 10:30 a.m.; Jeff Jeffers, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

► **Hebron Church, Grenada:** 104th homecoming, June 24, 10 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Lowell Ingram, speaker; James Calder, Homeward Bound, and Adrienne Estes, music.

► **Fairfield Church, Moselle:** Homecoming, June 10; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Kevin Ivy, speaker.

► **High Hill Church, Neshoba County:** Revival, June 10 - 13; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, speaker; Mike Barker, music.